

REMARKS

Claims 8 through 12, 23, 24, and 26 through 36 are pending in this Application. Claims 8 through 12, 23, 24, and 26 through 30 have been amended, claims 1 through 7, 13 through 22, and 25 have been cancelled and new claims 33 through 36 added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Adequate descriptive support for the present Amendment should be apparent throughout the originally filed disclosure noting, for example, that claims 8, 9, 23 and 24 have been placed in independent form, the dependencies of claims 10 through 12 and 26 through 30 appropriately changed, new claim 33 represents independent claim 8 in addition to the limitations previously in claim 2, new claim 34 represents independent claim 9 with the limitations previously in claim 2, new claim 35 represents independent claim 23 with the limitations previously in claim 25, and new claim 36 represents independent claim 24 with the limitations previously in claim 25. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

Claim Objections.

The Examiner objected to claims 8 through 12 and 23 through 32 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being in improper multiple dependent form.

In response the claims have been amended to address the issue raised by the Examiner, thereby overcoming the stated bases for the claim objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is solicited.

Claims 1 through 5 and 13 through 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Takahashi et al.

This rejection is traversed. Indeed this rejection has been rendered moot by canceling claims 1 through 5 and 13 through 17. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is solicited.

Claims 6, 7, and 18 through 23 (presumably intending claims 18 through 22 since claim 23 was indicated to contain allowable subject matter) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for obviousness predicated upon Takahashi et al. in view of Suda et al.

This rejection is traversed. Specifically, claims 6, 7, and 18 through 22 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is solicited.

New claims 33 through 36.

New claims 33 through 36 are free of the applied prior art in that they are further limited than claims 8, 9, 23, and 24, all indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 8 through 12 and 23 through 32 contain allowable subject matter. Based upon the arguments submitted *supra*, it should be apparent that the imposed rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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